



Overhead lines may create collision hazards for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and other large birds, particularly near wetlands, waterways, and migratory corridors. Agricultural operations may also be affected by soil compaction, damage to drainage systems, disruptions to equipment and field operations, and interference with aerial activities.<sup>4</sup>

Studies of transmission infrastructure have identified potential effects on nearby property values, particularly for properties located in proximity to transmission lines with impacts commonly associated with aesthetics, health concerns, noise, and safety.<sup>5</sup>

High-voltage transmission lines can produce corona discharge, which may result in audible noise, ozone and other reactive gases, and radio interference, with these effects potentially increasing during wet weather<sup>6</sup>.

MISO's selection of BECI through its regional transmission planning process does not by itself resolve questions regarding the project's specific necessity for Wisconsin, the allocation of costs and benefits, route selection, or local environmental and community impacts. MISO's independent market monitor, Potomac Economics, has raised concerns about aspects of MISO's transmission planning assumptions and the evaluation of benefits associated with its broader transmission portfolio, underscoring the importance of transparent and, independently supported analysis of major transmission investments<sup>7</sup>.

Wisconsin Statute § 1.12(6) establishes a state policy that, to the greatest extent feasible and consistent with economic and engineering considerations, electric-system reliability, and environmental protection, existing utility corridors should be used first when siting new electric transmission facilities, followed by highway and railroad corridors, recreational trails under the circumstances specified by statute, and new corridors.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, potential routing alternatives should be evaluated using existing utility corridors, highways and interstate highways, railroad corridors, and other previously disturbed areas before establishing new transmission corridors across agricultural, residential, conservation, or environmentally sensitive lands.

As the BECI Project has not yet been submitted to the PSC, it provides an opportunity for additional research and analysis of the project's necessity, costs and benefits, routing alternatives, construction methods, and potential environmental, health, property, and community impacts before the formal PSC review and approval process begins.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests that, when the BECI project is submitted to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the PSC delay consideration of the application until sufficient additional research, analysis, and public review have been completed;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests:

- 1) An independent and transparent analysis demonstrating the necessity of BECI for Wisconsin, including current and projected electricity demand, projected load growth, reliability needs, new large-load development, and alternatives for meeting those needs;

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<sup>4</sup> <https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/Brochures/Enviromental%20Impacts%20TL.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S030142152400199X>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ehn.org/high-voltage-transmission-lines-substations-public-health>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/miso-transmission-planning-in-energy-grain-belt-ferc/742535/>

<sup>8</sup> [Wisconsin Legislature: 1.12\(6\)](#)

- 2) A detailed analysis of the project's total costs, cost allocation, anticipated costs to Wisconsin ratepayers, and economic and reliability benefits to Wisconsin, Dane County, and affected municipalities;
- 3) A comprehensive environmental assessment comparing potential routes and construction methods and evaluating impacts on agricultural lands and soils, wetlands, waterways, groundwater, forests, conservation lands, wildlife habitat, migratory bird corridors, pollinators, fish, aquatic ecosystems, livestock, cultural and historic resources, air and water quality, and other natural resources, including cumulative impacts
- 4) A comprehensive evaluation of alternatives to BECI, including generation, energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, and other transmission improvements;
- 5) An assessment of all feasible routing alternatives be evaluated consistent with the corridor priorities established in Wis. Stat. § 1.12(6), including existing utility corridors, highways and interstate highways, railroad corridors, and other previously disturbed areas, before new transmission corridors are considered;
- 6) A detailed agricultural impact and farmland-preservation analysis identifying the number of acres of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, and other agricultural land that would be affected by each potential route. The analysis shall account for cumulative agricultural impacts associated with Koshkonong Solar and other major energy infrastructure projects in southern Wisconsin and identify a preferred route that avoids further fragmentation or permanent loss of productive farmland;
- 7) A comparison of overhead and underground construction options based on construction and life-cycle costs, reliability, maintenance, expected service life, severe-weather resilience, agricultural impacts, land use, environmental impacts, and impacts on affected properties and communities;
- 8) An assessment of potential public health and safety impacts, including projected electric and magnetic field levels and potential exposure at residences, agricultural buildings, schools, parks, livestock operations, and other occupied or publicly accessible areas, as well as potential impacts associated with corona discharge, including audible noise, ozone generation, and radio interference;
- 9) Identification of potentially affected properties and public lands, including proposed easements, easement widths, access roads, construction areas, temporary easements, vegetation-management areas, existing transmission easements, and other areas of disturbance;
- 10) Construction and vegetation-management plans describing how impacts to agricultural operations, natural resources, private property, and surrounding communities would be avoided or minimized;
- 11) That affected Dane County landowners receive property-specific information in electronic format at least 30 days before any formal PSC proceeding or other decision-making process that would materially affect their property;
- 12) MGS and the project proponents establish a schedule for additional engagement sessions with affected landowners, municipalities, counties, state agencies, and the public, including opportunities for affected property owners to receive property-specific information and meet with project engineers and representatives;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors finds that southern Wisconsin's prime farmland is a finite and irreplaceable public resource and that, following the substantial agricultural disruption caused by the PSC-approved Koshkonong Solar Energy

122 Center, additional prime farmland should not be compromised for BECI when existing corridors  
123 or other practicable alternatives are available.

124 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests that the  
125 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin provide sufficient time for Dane County, affected  
126 municipalities, property owners, state agencies, and members of the public to review the  
127 requested information and provide meaningful input before making any decision regarding  
128 approval or routing of the BECI project.



# Dane County

## Signature Copy

Resolution: 2026 RES-130

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File Number: 2026 RES-130

URGING MIDCONTINENT GRID SOLUTIONS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REVIEW AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON THE BELL CENTER-COLUMBIA-SUGAR CREEK-IL/WI STATE LINE 765 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Adopted by the County Board on September 10, 2026.

Approve ☒ Veto ☐

County Executive Melissa Asad

Date Sept 14-26